1	2	3	4	5
34.	Uttar Pradesh	548	341	232
35.	West Bengal	1	2	2
	Total	676	874	472

Advertisement of drugs

†65. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that patients are affected by daily elaborate advertisements about expensive drugs for serious diseases such as T.B., diabetes, asthama, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer etc. in newspapers, magazines and on T.V. channels;

(b) whether all advertised drugs have been approved and licenced by Government and they are entirely safe for health of patients;

(c) if so, the norms prescribed for sale after approval and giving production licences for such drugs; and

(d) which is the body responsible for fixing arbitrary prices of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The advertisement published in the press mainly relate top the cure of diseases by certain persons, but not to specific drugs of medicines. However, certain advertisements do appear in electronic media relating to drugs for treatment. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 which prohibits advertisements of drugs for certain specified diseases and conditions at present does not cover advertisement for "treatment" or practitioners, or the electronic media.

(b) Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, lays down the requirements for safety, efficacy, manufacture and sale of drugs. The Act also specify procedures to be followed for licensing of drugs for manufacture and compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure quality and safety of the drugs for use.

(c) Sale of drugs also requires valid licences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under. Drugs are sold by the chemists as prescription and non prescription drugs. Prescription drugs are required to be sold on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. Major drugs for treatment of T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, Blood pressure, cancer, etc., are prescription drugs.

(d) Prices of drugs are regulated by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.